

HB-1780-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 4:04:16 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Crossland	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Good to see that HD1 version of this Bill no longer replaces Good Friday as a State holiday.

HB-1780-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 6:48:56 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roxana Angelica Jimenez	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice-Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the House Finance Committee,

RE: House Bill No. 1780 Relating to World Peace Day

I was originally in opposition to the original bill. I kindly ask this Committee to keep the bill in its current amended form, thereby preserving Good Friday as a State Holiday.

The Hawaii federal court held in *Cammack v. Waihee*, 673 F.Supp 1524 (D. Haw. 1987) that Good Friday as a public holiday did not violate the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment to the Constitution. The 9th circuit court later affirmed that decision. *Cammack v. Waihee*, 932 F.2d 765 (9th Circ. 1991) The court concluded that the Hawaii Statute making Good Friday a holiday had a "sincere secular purpose," adding "There is nothing impermissible about considering for holiday status days on which many people choose to be absent from work for religious reasons."

Good Friday was originally made a holiday in 1941 by Hawaii's Territorial Legislature and the holiday was confirmed after statehood in 1959. In fact, the 1939 report primarily proposed Good Friday as a legal holiday of solemn religious observance, similar in nature to Thanksgiving and Christmas. Therefore, the decision to maintain Good Friday as a designated legal holiday is a correct one, in light of past federal court decisions as well as the original legislative intent of our Hawaii lawmakers. Good Friday is just as important today!

I thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify on this matter,

Sincerely,

Roxana A. Jimenez

HB-1780-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 10:45:25 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Raymund Llanes Liongson, PhD	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I stand IN SUPPORT of HB1780 HD1. We need to remind ourselves and the people of the State of Hawai'i about the value and importance of World Peace and hope that it infects our consciousness EVERY DAY.

Raymund Llanes Liongson, PhD
Retired Professor, UH-Leeward CC
Ewa Beach Resident